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Letter dated 26 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to a heinous act of terrorism perpetrated today by Palestinian terrorists in the city of Hebron.

In the afternoon hours, gunmen from the Palestinian-controlled village of Abu Sanina fired shots at a playground in a Jewish neighbourhood of Hebron. In the course of the gunfire, a 10-month-old baby, Shalhevet Pas, was shot and killed. Her father was shot and wounded in the thigh and her 15-year-old brother was moderately wounded; both were evacuated to a hospital in Jerusalem.

Today's murder, which comes amidst numerous calls for escalation by Palestinian leaders in the light of this week's Arab Summit in Amman, is the latest in a rising tide of Palestinian terrorism that has claimed the lives of 68 Israelis over the past six months. These attacks have been detailed in a series of letters addressed to you, dated 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

The Government of Israel holds the Palestinian Authority responsible for today's murder in the light of its continuing unwillingness to take concrete action against terrorist organizations operating in its territory. The Palestinian leadership also continues to actively encourage the commission of violent attacks against Israelis. Just today, Chairman Yassir Arafat, speaking to leaders of the uprising in Ramallah, told his people to prepare for another hundred days of conflict. West Bank Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti echoed Chairman Arafat's words by saying that Palestinians would escalate the intifada in coming days. These statements run counter to signed agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Authority as well as to accepted norms of conduct.

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Israel reiterates that peace can only come to the Middle East once there is a firm and resolute commitment to combat terrorism and violence and a restoration of calm and security. Israel calls once again on Chairman Arafat to fulfil his commitment of 9 September 1993, to renounce all acts of terrorism and to promote an environment conducive to peaceful negotiations.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 164, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative